THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. Subject to these guidelines, airlines are free to provide air services to any place depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability.

Air India's scheme for promotion of tourism

†2117. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plan has been started in collaboration with Air India for attracting Indian tourists by many countries;

(b) if so, the details of the plan; and

(c) the extent of profit likely to be earned by Government from this Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Air India has entered into an alliance with Tourism Malaysia and Singapore Tourism Board to promote business on Singapore and Kuala Lumpur sectors (which is valid till 31 December, 2005) to attract the outgoing Indian tourists.

(c) Many tangible and intangible benefits would accure to the aviation traval & tourism industry which cannot be quantified.

Improvement of security at Airports

2118. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ordered certain stern security measures to improve safety and security at Indian airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether these additional measures will cause inconvenience to the passengers and delays in passenger handling at the airports?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Security measures at airports in India are in consonance with the standard and recommended practices of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). Taking into account the threat perception and security scenario in civil aviation operations, new/revised Aviation Security Orders/Circulars are issued by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) from time to time.

(c) While instituting security measures at airports in the country, due care is exercised by the Airport Security Unit to ensure that the security controls and procedures cause minimum of interference with, or delay to the activities of, civil aviation. It is also ensured that enhanced security measures instituted during period of 'alert', cause minimum inconvenience of delays in passenger handling.

Development of Aviation Sector in MP

†2119. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to develop the Aviation Sector in Madhya Pradesh from the tourism point of view, if so, in what manner;

(b) whether some proposals of the State Government in this regard are pending with the Centre;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when the schemes will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has taken up various development plans for upgradation of infrastructural facilities at Khajuraho, Bhopal and Indore airports in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) to (d) State Government of Madhya Pradesh has requested AAI to extend and upgrade the runway at Bhopal and Indore airports for operation of wide-bodied jet aircraft and associated facilities and expressed willingness to give required land free of cost and free from all encumbrances. The AAI will take up this work subject to receipt of a firm commitment from airlines to operate wide-bodied jet aircraft through these

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.